

Schena, Cristeen

From: Perkins, Stephen
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2015 4:14 PM
To: Dart, Denny
Subject: FW: Vergennes last Compliance Evaluation: "Unacceptable" RE: 34 spills now in 44 days (5 per week avg) | Vergennes approaches 700,000 gallons with 5 spills in 25 days

The beat goes on.

From: James Ehlers [mailto:james@champlain.ngo]
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2015 1:19 PM
To: Hamjian, Lynne; Voorhees, Jeanne; Perkins, Stephen; Szaro, Deb; Spalding, Curt
Cc: rpoltak@neiwpcc.org
Subject: Vergennes last Compliance Evaluation: "Unacceptable" RE: 34 spills now in 44 days (5 per week avg) | Vergennes approaches 700,000 gallons with 5 spills in 25 days

Vergennes last Compliance Evaluation: "Unacceptable"

<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/WWInventory/UpdateFacilityReviewOrInspection.aspx?F=59&FROI=8364&option=view>

From: James Ehlers [mailto:james@champlain.ngo]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2015 4:42 PM
To: Lynne Hamjian; 'voorhees, jeanne'; 'Stephen Perkins'; szaro.deb@epa.gov; Curt Spalding
Cc: Ron Poltak
Subject: 34 spills now in 44 days (5 per week avg) | Vergennes approaches 700,000 gallons with 5 spills in 25 days

700,000 gallons = 116 milk tank trucks or 14,000 bathtubs

Unconfirmed reports indicate Vergennes is adding demand to the system through new housing development even now when they cannot maintain the current loads ...

And this has been going on for years ... here is the report entry from 2012 calling for the address of E. coli in Otter Creek due to WWTF issues causing impairments for contact recreation, yet the regulators fiddle

VT03-01 02 LOWER OTTER CREEK, BELOW VERGENNES WWTF E. COLI
(APPROX 7 MILES)

But we are told again and again sewage treatment plants are not a problem ... do we wait until the first child playing in the water falls ill to consider it a problem?

Remember, sewage is more than just phosphorous. See below.

That now brings the total to 34 sewage spills in the 11 different communities since May 10th:

Burlington 7
Rutland 6
Middlebury 5
Vergennes 5
Saint Albans 3
Montpelier 1
S. Burlington 1
Northfield 1
Shelburne 1
Hinesburg 1
Wilmington 1
Ludlow 1
Brighton 1

Wastewater constituents

Microorganisms Pathogenic bacteria, virus and worms eggs Risk when bathing and eating shellfish

Biodegradable organic materials Oxygen depletion in rivers, lakes and fjords Fish death, odours

Other organic materials Detergents, pesticides, fat, oil and grease, Toxic effect, aesthetic inconveniences, colouring, solvents, phenols, cyanide bio accumulation in the food chain

Nutrients Nitrogen, phosphorus, ammonium Eutrophication, oxygen depletion, toxic effect

Metals Hg, Pb, Cd, Cr, Cu, Ni Toxic effect, bioaccumulation

Other inorganic materials Acids, for example hydrogen sulphide, bases Corrosion, toxic effect

Thermal effects Hot water Changing living conditions for flora and fauna

Odour (and taste) Hydrogen sulphide Aesthetic inconveniences, toxic effect

Radioactivity Toxic effect, accumulation

Constituents present in domestic wastewater (based on Henze et al., 2001)

All the best,

James Ehlers

Executive Director

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